

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants submit this Amendment, in reply to the Office Action mailed June 22, 2005.

In this Amendment, Applicants amend claims 24-26 and 29-31 to improve clarity and to better define the invention. Further, Applicants add claims 33-41. Before entry of this amendment, claims 24-32 were pending. After entry of this Amendment, claims 24-41 are pending.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. Further, the Examiner rejected claims 24, 25, and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,355,126 to Ogawa; rejected claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa; and rejected claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,281,289 to Debroche et al.

Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejections for at least the reasons discussed below.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The Examiner rejected claims 24-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 ¶ 2. Specifically, the Examiner states that the term “‘devices’ (i.e. plural)” is unclear in claims 24-26 and 30,

and the phrase “the cutting device” lacks antecedent basis in claim 31. See Office Action, pages 2, ¶¶ 2 and 3.

Claims 24-26 and 30 have been amended to recite a “device” (singular) and claim 31 has been amended to maintain antecedent basis. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 24-26, 30, and 31 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) & 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner’s rejection of claims 24, 25, and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa. Further, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner’s rejection of claim 28 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa, or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa, and the rejection of claims 26 and 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ogawa and further in view of Debroche et al.

Regarding the rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), Ogawa does not teach the claimed rotation of the second angular actuation device “wherein an amount of said rotation is calculated based on a geometry of the toroidal support,” as recited in amended claim 24. In the Office Action, the Examiner apparently asserts that wrist portion 62 in Fig. 3 of Ogawa corresponds to the claimed second angular actuation device. Office Action, page 3, ¶ 5. In Ogawa, wrist portion 62 rotates press mechanism 63 such that the ribbon piece 33 is applied to the rigid core 13. Ogawa, col. 10, lines 53-64, and Fig. 3. Ogawa, however, does not disclose how, and to what extent, such rotation is determined. Thus, Ogawa necessarily fails to teach the claimed rotation of

the second angular actuation device “wherein an amount of said rotation is calculated based on a geometry of the toroidal support,” as recited in claim 24. (Emphasis added).

Accordingly, amended claim 24 is allowable over Ogawa, and claims 25 and 29-32 are allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 24.

With respect to the Examiner’s rejection of claim 28 as being anticipated by Ogawa under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), or, in the alternative, as being obvious over Ogawa under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), there is no suggestion in Ogawa of the claimed “amount of said rotation [being] calculated based on a geometry of the toroidal support,” as recited in claim 24. Accordingly, in light of the above-described deficiencies of Ogawa, claim 28 is allowable at least due to its dependence from claim 24. In addition, concerning the Examiner’s rejection of claims 26 and 27 as being unpatentable over Ogawa and further in view of Debroche et al., the Examiner contends that Debroche et al. teaches “tire reinforcement structures.” Office Action at page 5. Such teachings, however, even if present in Debroche et al., fail to overcome the above-noted shortcomings of Ogawa. Claims 26 and 27, therefore, are also allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 24.

New Independent Claim 33

Applicants submit that new independent claim 33 is not anticipated by Ogawa; unpatentable over Ogawa; or unpatentable over Ogawa in view of Debroche et al. Claim 33, for example, recites rotation of the second angular actuation device “wherein an amount of said rotation occurs between the toroidal support and each strip segment after a central portion of each strip segment has been brought in contact against the

toroidal support.” Ogawa, however, does not teach or suggest rotation of the second angular actuation device “wherein an amount of said rotation occurs between the toroidal support and each strip segment after a central portion of each strip segment has been brought in contact against the toroidal support,” as recited in claim 33. (Emphasis added). Thus, claim 33 is allowable over the references applied in the Office Action.

New Dependent Claims 34-41

Applicants submit that dependent claims 34-41 are allowable over the references applied in the Office Action, at least due to the direct dependency of claims 34-41 from independent claim 33.

Claim Scope

In discussing the specification, claims, and drawings in this Amendment, it is to be understood that Applicants are in no way intending to limit the scope of the claims to any exemplary embodiments described in the specification or abstract and/or shown in the drawings. Rather, Applicants believe that Applicants are entitled to have the claims interpreted broadly, to the maximum extent permitted by statute, regulation, and applicable case law.

Summary

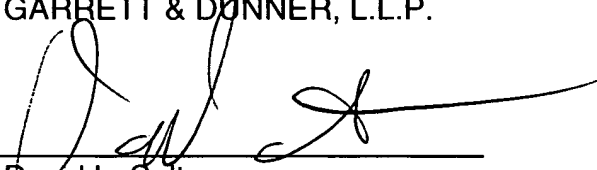
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this Application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account No. 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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